

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FATHER EDWARD FLAHERTY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Reverend Edward Flaherty, Veteran of the United States Army, for his service to our country.

Father Flaherty served in the U.S. Army from 1941 to 1945, serving two years, eleven months, and two days throughout the Pacific theater of World War II, including time in New Caledonia, the Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea. While serving in the Army, Father Flaherty was a Medical Technician with the 131st Engineer Regiment Medical Detachment, in which he played an essential role in treating his fellow soldiers' wounds and injuries while also assisting with evacuations for casualties.

During his time in the Army, Father Flaherty earned the American Defense Service Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one star but he was never awarded the physical medals. After inquiring on his behalf, our office discovered additional medals he earned but never received.

After his discharge from the U.S. Army, Father Flaherty returned to his hometown of Kansas City and worked for Folger's as a bookkeeper and accountant. He formally entered the Jesuit order in 1959 at 40 years of age and was ordained as a priest in 1965. He then moved to Colorado in 1967 and taught at Regis University. He became a staple in the Colorado Jesuit community for the next several decades, most recently pastoring at the Shrine of St. Anne Parish in Arvada, Colo.

Father Flaherty's courageous service helped to defend our nation's democracy and ideals abroad at a crucial moment in world history. His heroism has charted the path for future generations of men and women who serve in the military. We are proud to have Father Flaherty call Colorado home for so many years, and forever indebted to him for his bravery and sacrifice on behalf of our country.

I extend my deepest appreciation to Father Flaherty for his dedication, integrity and outstanding service to the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO BRUCE DOYLE
VARNER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Bruce Doyle Varner, who passed away on Saturday, May 8, 2021. Bruce was a dedicated leader in the Inland Empire region of California, and he will be deeply missed.

Bruce was born in Los Angeles, California in 1936. His family would later move up the coast to San Luis Obispo, where he would spend the bulk of his youth. After high school, Bruce decided to attend the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he would go on to be a star football and baseball player. Despite being recruited by a few professional football teams, Bruce was focused on a future legal career. Before entering law school, Bruce served briefly in the U.S. Army. At UC Hastings Law School, he became Editor in Chief of the Law Review and graduated Order of the Coif. After passing the California Bar Examination in 1962, Bruce moved to the Inland Empire and launched his legal career at a prominent law firm.

In 1975, Bruce married his wife, Nancy, at the Mission Inn Chapel in Riverside, California. He quickly became one of the region's top corporate and business transactional attorneys. Bruce was especially proud of his work in collaboration with former Stater Bros. Markets' President Jack Brown during the 1986 proxy battle over control of the company. Bruce and Jack were successful, and Stater Bros. would emerge as one of the leading supermarket chains in our region. In another landmark effort, Bruce was instrumental in the conversion of a portion of Norton Air Force Base into the Stater Bros. corporate headquarters, warehouse and distribution center after the base was closed. In addition to his legal practice, Bruce was nominated to serve on the University of California Board of Regents in 2006 by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Bruce was predeceased by his beloved wife, Nancy, and survived by his brother Ron; sons Kevin, Sean, Brett, and daughter, Nicole; grandchildren Zoey, Peyton, Marcus, Devin, Ancel, Finley, Fiona and Bruce; daughters-in-law, Tracy and Kristin; and son-in-law Brian. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the Varner family, his friends, and everyone fortunate enough to know Bruce. Although he may be gone, the many contributions Bruce made to his community and family will have a lasting impact.

HONORING GARLAND LIFE

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Garland Life, who died on June 2, 2021 at the age of 78. Mr. Life was a longtime educator in the Roanoke Valley who made a tremendous positive impact on his students.

Mr. Life was born on June 15, 1942 in McGaheysville, Virginia to Cecil and Mary Burner Life. He grew up on a farm and graduated from Montevideo High School. Subsequently, he earned degrees from Bridgewater College and the University of Virginia.

During his career as an educator, he worked as a teacher, a principal at Andrew

Lewis High School in Salem and Cave Spring High School, and an administrator of Roanoke County Schools. His students benefited from the lessons he taught and the learning environment he created. I recognized this firsthand as one of the students at Andrew Lewis High School when he was principal. When the Salem School Board signaled intentions to remove Andrew Lewis from the high school's name and I wanted to keep it, he let me pursue what would become my first public campaign in the community. He could have stopped this student-led movement, but he didn't. I have always appreciated the indulgence he showed his students on this occasion.

Mr. Life is survived by his wife, Kimberly Hale; son and daughter-in-law, Jason and Amy Life, daughter and son-in-law, Sarah and Paul Tesoriere; grandchildren, Benjamin and Megan Life and Bella and Luca Tesoriere; stepdaughter, Gretchen Roberts; stepson Andrew Roberts; and sister, Janet Wayland. I offer them my condolences on their loss.

TRIBUTE TO COURTNEY HALE,
CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRES-
SIONAL WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, each year, through the Women of the Year Award, my office extends special recognition to women on the Central Coast who have made a difference in our community. I would like to recognize one outstanding Woman of the Year Award recipient, Courtney Haile of San Luis Obispo, California.

Courtney brings a bold and honest voice to community advocacy and her work on equity, justice, and belonging. As a student, Courtney explored media representation, race, and gender, and examined Black identity development in predominantly white communities. She dreams of a more equitable and inclusive world for people of color to live in, and she is measurably helping to create such a world on the Central Coast. In response to the death of Philando Castile and others, she co-founded R.A.C.E. Matters, a grassroots organization amplifying racial justice and centering Black voices through art and culture. As Executive Director, Courtney is a driving force for the organization's creative endeavors, cultural programs, and organization of local racial justice events. Courtney executes and stands by her vision with class, grace, and intelligence.

Courtney participates in a range of community activities and most enjoys collaborating with community partners to create bold, beautiful, and engaging experiences. In her mission to help people honor and better understand the needs and contributions of the Black members of our community, Courtney spearheads the visionary art series, BELONGING, and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

produced two original documentary films, *Restrictions Apply*, about San Luis Obispo's history of housing discrimination and *Kut To Be the Best: The Last Black Barbershop* in San Luis Obispo, as a tribute to Black owned businesses and the importance of the cultural spaces created by them.

Courtney's work through R.A.C.E. Matters has opened the eyes of the community to the talents, contributions, and value of our Black citizens. Given that our county is but 2.2 percent Black, this is a tall order, but Courtney has been able to shine her light and lead the way toward this vision. San Luis Obispo County is better off because Courtney Haile lives here.

I am honored to recognize Courtney for her continued commitment to improving our community and the residents of San Luis Obispo County. I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Courtney Haile, for her incredible service to her community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER
TONAWANDA SUPERVISOR RON-
ALD H. MOLINE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the late Tonawanda Town Supervisor Ronald H. Moline, a native of Western New York. Ron was well-liked and well-respected as an educator, and served as a member of the Tonawanda Town Board for more than a quarter-century.

A graduate of Sweet Home High School and the State University of New York at Buffalo, Ron began a career as a high school history teacher with Buffalo Public Schools in 1964. In 1981, he embarked upon a political career in the town of Tonawanda, winning a grueling race for a seat on the Town Board. After the incumbent Supervisor passed away two years later, Mr. Moline accepted appointment to the position, and subsequently won election to the seat in his own right. Ron would move back to a seat as Councilman in 1993 and would again become Supervisor in 2000.

As Supervisor, Ron worked to grow industrial parks in Tonawanda, and worked closely with companies including General Motors, Dunlop, DuPont, and Praxair to both maintain current jobs in Tonawanda and grow opportunities for both corporations and local workers. Ron was an innovator in local government as well, establishing a Yahoo chat room in 2001 for concerned citizens to communicate directly with elected Town leaders, allowing them to be, as he said, more "close, available, and responsive to our constituents."

Madam Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to remember the life and accomplishments of Supervisor Ron Moline, and I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring his legacy and extending our condolences to his family and friends.

APPRECIATING PRIME MINISTER
BENJAMIN NETANYAHU

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the statement issued on change of governance in Israel, by Jack Rosen, President of American Jewish Congress, was heart-felt on the service of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel. "We also want to thank outgoing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for his long-time service and leadership. Mr. Netanyahu has greatly contributed to Israel's progress, especially in strengthening the country's security, transforming it into an economic powerhouse, and advancing its standing in the international arena. Under Prime Minister Netanyahu's watch, Israel underwent an extraordinary rapprochement with the Arab world, as attested to by the historic normalization agreements achieved with several Arab countries. We wish him well."

A highlight of my service in Congress has been for me and my wife, Roxanne, to meet with Prime Minister Netanyahu in Jerusalem and Washington. As co-chair of the Israel Caucus, I know firsthand of his extraordinary dedication for the people of Israel.

I agree with Mr. Rosen. "We look forward to engaging with the new Israeli government to help take American-Israeli relations to new heights, to addressing critical regional challenges together, and to achieving sustainable peace and prosperity for all."

In conclusion, God Bless our Troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

IN HONOR OF PAUL PLOTKIN

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of Paul Plotkin. Born on June 19, 1921, in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Mr. Plotkin is a veteran and a resident of Derry, New Hampshire. During World War II, he answered the call of his nation and joined the U.S. Army, serving with the 66th Infantry Division in Europe.

Mr. Plotkin endured great hardship during his military service. He was among the more than 2,000 American soldiers being transported from Southampton, England, to Cherbourg, France, aboard the troopship SS *Léopoldville* when the ship was struck by a torpedo from a German submarine on the evening of December 24, 1944. 763 American soldiers tragically lost their lives in the initial blast and the resulting sinking of the ship in the frigid waters of the English Channel, but Mr. Plotkin survived and made it to France. Although discussion of the *Léopoldville* disaster was censored in the aftermath of the tragedy, Mr. Plotkin preserved the memory of what he experienced and carried it on to today. Now, as a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1617, Mr. Plotkin continues to honor the memory of his comrades and their sacrifice by supporting fellow veterans and speaking out about his experiences during the war.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to wish Mr. Plotkin a happy 100th birthday and thank him for his service to our nation. I hope that he has a wonderful celebration with his loved ones and fellow veterans. His sacrifice will not be forgotten.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAYOR MIKE
DONNELLY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional career of Mayor Mike Donnelly of Double Oak, Texas. Mayor Donnelly's almost two decades of service in public office is a model of civic duty. As he retires following his fifth term in mayoral office, it is my distinct honor to recognize his service to our community.

Since he became a resident of Double Oak in 2002, Mike Donnelly has served his community faithfully as a volunteer and public servant. He was initially elected to the Double Oak Town Council in 2004 and served in that position for three terms before running unopposed for his first term of Mayor in 2009. Following his first mayoral term, he stepped away to care for his mother. He was re-elected to the Town Council in 2012 and his council colleagues appointed him as Mayor Pro Tem. Following the death of Mayor Tom Pidcock in July 2012, he was appointed to fill the Mayor's seat, a position to which he has been re-elected each succeeding term. During his public service, Mayor Donnelly has maintained a full-time professional career with American Airlines for over thirty years.

The Town of Double Oak has prospered under Mayor Donnelly's leadership. This North Texas municipality continues to boast one of the lowest income tax rates in the State of Texas, thanks in large part to the efficiency and skill of Mayor Donnelly's administration. Last year, Mayor Donnelly and the Town Council's successful infrastructure, police, and education initiatives culminated in Double Oak being named the "Safest City in Texas." Mayor Donnelly's outstanding civic achievements and personal philanthropic contributions are to be applauded.

On behalf of the 26th District, I am privileged to congratulate and thank Mayor Mike Donnelly as he steps down after a long career of estimable public service. Best wishes to Mayor Donnelly as he returns to private life. His positive impact on Double Oak will continue to benefit its citizens for years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TENURE
OF ORANGE COUNTY SANITA-
TION DISTRICT BOARD CHAIR-
MAN DAVID JOHN SHAWVER

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tenure of the City of Stanton Mayor David John Shawver as Chairman of the Orange County Sanitation District